

SENATORS AND OFFICERS POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE OF TRAVEL EXPENSES

Date/Time Stamp:
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This disclosure, along with a copy of the Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form and all attachments, MUST be provided to the Office of Public Records, Room 232 of the Hart Building, within 30 days after the travel is completed.

Senator Ben Sasse

In compliance with Rule 35.2(a) and (c), I _____, make the following
(Name of Senator/Officer)

disclosures with respect to travel expenses that have been or will be reimbursed/paid for me.

The Aspen Institute (Aspen Ideas Festival)

Private Sponsor(s) (list all):

June 28 - June 29 2019

Travel date(s):

Aspen, Colorado

Destination(s):

Melissa Sasse, ~~Elizabeth Sasse~~, Katherine Sasse, Augustine Sasse

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Member/Officer: ☒ Spouse ☒ Child

FILL IN THE APPROPRIATE LINES. IF THE COST OF LODGING DID NOT INCREASE DUE TO THE ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILD, ONLY INCLUDE LODGING COSTS IN EMPLOYEE EXPENSES. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Expenses for Senator/Officer:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount	complimentary hotel shuttle from Pitkin County airport included in lodging expenses	\$295	Breakfast and lunch included in registration fee (conference meeting package)	\$3800 registration fee (waived for speakers)

Expenses for Accompanying Spouse or Dependent Child (if applicable)

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Provide a description of all meetings and events attended. See Senate Rule 35.2(c)(6). (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Attended and participated as a Speaker at the Aspen Institute's annual public convening - the Aspen Ideas Festival.

Please see attached agenda for Saturday, June 29.

I HAVE MADE A DETERMINATION THAT THE TRAVEL DESCRIBED ABOVE WAS IN CONNECTION WITH MY DUTIES AS AN OFFICEHOLDER, AND DID NOT CREATE THE APPEARANCE THAT I WAS USING PUBLIC OFFICE FOR PRIVATE GAIN.

7/16/2019
(Date)


(Signature of Senator/Officer)

PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM

This form must be completed by any private entity offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to Senate Members, officers, or employees (Senate Rule 35, clause 2). Each sponsor of a fact-finding trip must sign the completed form. The trip sponsor(s) must provide a copy of the completed form to each invited Senate traveler, who will then forward it to the Ethics Committee with any other required materials. The trip sponsor(s) should **NOT** submit the form directly to the Ethics Committee. Please consult the accompanying instructions for more detailed definitions and other key information.

The Senate Member, officer, or employee **MUST** also provide a copy of this form, along with the appropriate travel authorization and reimbursement form, to the Office of Public Records (OPR), Room 232 of the Hart Building, within thirty (30) days after the travel is completed.

1. Sponsor(s) of the trip (please list all sponsors): The Aspen Institute (Aspen Ideas Festival)
2. Description of the trip: Senator Sasse will attend and participate as a speaker at the Aspen Institute's flagship public convening - the Aspen Ideas Festival
3. Dates of travel: June 28 - June 29, 2019
4. Place of travel: Aspen, Colorado
5. Name and title of Senate invitees: Senator Ben Sasse (Nebraska)
6. I *certify* that the trip fits one of the following categories:
 - ☒ (A) The sponsor(s) are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** do not retain or employ registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.
 - OR -**
 - ☐ (B) The sponsor or sponsors are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, but retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and the trip meets the requirements of Senate Rule 35.2(a)(2)(A)(i) or (ii) (*see question 9*).
7. ☒ I *certify* that the trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.

- AND -

☒ I *certify* that the sponsor or sponsors will not accept funds or in-kind contributions earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.
8. I *certify* that:
 - ☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except for *de minimis* lobbyist involvement.
 - AND -**
 - ☒ The traveler will not be accompanied on the trip by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except as provided for by Committee regulations relating to lobbyist accompaniment (*see question 9*).

9. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 6(B)**

I *certify* that if the sponsor or sponsors retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, one of the following scenarios applies:

☐ (A) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip.

OR

☐ (B) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip (see questions 6 and 10).

OR

☐ (C) The trip is being sponsored only by an organization or organizations designated under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

10. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 9(B)**

If the trip includes two overnight stays, please explain why the second night is practically required for Senate invitees to participate in the travel:

11. ☒ An itinerary for the trip is attached to this form. I *certify* that the attached itinerary is a detailed (hour-by-hour), complete, and final itinerary for the trip.

12. Briefly describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip:

The Aspen Institute is the sole sponsor of the Aspen Ideas Festival conference, held annually in Aspen, Colorado. The Institute organizes and conducts the Ideas Festival, including speaker selection, content/ agenda development and execution of the conference.

13. Briefly describe the stated mission of each sponsor and how the purpose of the trip relates to that mission:

The Aspen Institute is an education and policy studies non-profit organization. Its mission is to foster leadership based on enduring values and provide a non-partisan forum for the exchange of ideas. The Ideas Festival is the Institute's flagship conference for the exchange of ideas.

14. Briefly describe each sponsor's prior history of sponsoring congressional trips:

The Aspen Institute has a nearly 40-year history of conducting non-partisan educational forums, which includes participation by Members of Congress and their staff. This is the 15th annual Aspen Ideas Festival conference, which often includes Members of Congress as speakers.

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15. Briefly describe the educational activities performed by each sponsor (other than sponsoring congressional trips):

The Aspen Institute holds many educational activities, including conferences, briefings, roundtables, forums and other non-partisan forums on critical issues facing the US and the world, which includes policy experts, business and organizational leaders, members of the press and the general public.

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith estimate <input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts	complimentary hotel shuttle from Pitkin County airport included in lodging expenses	\$295	Breakfast and lunch included in registration fee (conference meeting package)	\$3800 registration fee (waived for speakers)

17. State whether a) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation or b) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *specifically with regard* to congressional participation:

A) The trip involves an event that is arranged without regard to congressional participation

18. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip

The Aspen Institute's campus and conference center in Aspen, Colorado is home to the annual Ideas Festival.

19. Name and location of hotel or other lodging facility:

The Aspen Meadows Resort, 845 Meadows Road Aspen Colorado 81611

20. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility:

The Aspen Meadows Resort is owned by the Aspen Institute on the Aspen, CO campus and is home to the annual Ideas Festival. The conference takes place at the campus and lodging at the Meadows allows speakers to be centrally located with convenient access to event sessions.

21. Describe how the daily expenses for lodging, meals, and other expenses provided to trip participants compares to the maximum per diem rates for official Federal Government travel:

The lodging rate and other expenses (meal) exceeds the daily per diem rate for Pitkin County, Colorado.

The same lodging at the Meadows is being offered to all speakers of the Ideas Festival. Breakfast, lunch

and snacks are included in the conference meeting package for all Ideas Festival attendees.

22. Describe the type and class of transportation being provided. Indicate whether coach, business-class or first class transportation will be provided. If first-class fare is being provided, please explain why first-class travel is necessary:

Complimentary hotel shuttle from Pitkin County airport

23. ☒ I represent that the travel expenses that will be paid for or reimbursed to Senate invitees do not include expenditures for recreational activities, alcohol, or entertainment (other than entertainment provided to all attendees as an integral part of the event, as permissible under Senate Rule 35).

24. List any entertainment that will be provided to, paid for, or reimbursed to Senate invitees and explain why the entertainment is an integral part of the event:

None

25. I hereby *certify* that the information contained herein is true, complete and correct. (For trips involving more than one sponsor, you *must* include a completed signature page for each additional sponsor):

Signature of Travel Sponsor:

Name and Title: Elliot Gerson, Executive Vice President, Policy and Public Programs

Name of Organization: **The Aspen Institute**

Address: 2300 N Street, NW Suite 700 Washington DC 20037

Telephone Number: (202) 736-5859 (Lisa Jones, Deputy General Counsel)

Fax Number: (202) 467- 0790

E-mail Address: lisa.jones@aspeninstitute.org



February 28th, 2019

The Honorable Ben Sasse
United States Senate
50 Constitution Ave NE
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sasse,

We write again to invite you to speak at the annual Aspen Ideas Festival, our public gathering now in its 15th year. An event we continue to produce with our partners at *The Atlantic*, the Aspen Ideas Festival is considered by many to be one of the preeminent conferences in the United States.

This summer, our programming will address a range of ideas covering the American economy and politics. We're also dedicating one of our themes to the topic "Redefining Conservatism in America". That said, we would gladly work with your team to determine the best angle for your participation. The Festival spans the week of June 23 -29, with our focus on conservatism from June 26-29. Any day(s) that work for you will work for us.

Know that your engagement here would be on a large stage, with an expansive digital audience as well. We have a world class line up of journalists to choose from for your interviewer, and tremendous press coverage.

We'd be honored if you could join us. Thank you for considering the invitation once again.

Sincerely,

Daniel R. Porterfield
President & CEO
Aspen Institute

20190228



ASPEN IDEAS FESTIVAL

Senator Ben Sasse

Proposed Itinerary: Aspen Ideas Festival, a program of the Aspen Institute
June 28-29, 2019 Aspen, Colorado

Attending Speaker:

Senator Ben Sasse, Nebraska

Featured Sessions:

Conservatism in America, Meet Senator Ben Sasse: Self Described Independent Conservative
Featuring Senator Ben Sasse and Interviewer Jeffrey Goldberg
Saturday 12:00pm – 12:50pm
Paepcke Auditorium 1000 N 3rd St, Aspen Colorado 81611

Additional sessions listed are for the Senator to participate in as an audience member.

Trip Purpose:

- The Aspen Institute has invited Senator Ben Sasse to be a featured speaker at the Aspen Ideas Festival, a program of the Aspen Institute. The Aspen Ideas Festival is the nation's premier, public gathering place for leaders from around the globe and across many disciplines to present and discuss the ideas and issues that both shape our lives and challenge our times. Senator Sasse will speak about his views as an Independent Conservative as interviewed by Jeffrey Goldberg. This will be one of about 200 sessions that occur across the week of the Aspen Ideas Festival.

Friday, June 28

Evening Depart Nebraska for Aspen, Colorado.

8:39pm Arrive in Aspen. The shuttle from his hotel will pick up Senator Sasse at the Aspen-Pitkin County Airport and drive him to the Aspen Meadows Resort (845 Meadows Road, Aspen, CO 81611).

Overnight at the Aspen Meadows Resort

Saturday, June 29

7:00 a.m. Breakfast provided at the Aspen Meadows Resort Reception Center

8:00 – 8:50 am "Aspen in Action: Rural Mythicism: Fake News about Rural America":
Featuring Jennie Stephens and Janet Topolsky

9:10 – 10:00 am "The Genesis of "Isms"": Featuring John McWorter

10:20 – 11:10 am "Defining Economic Progress: Should Dignity be Our Ultimate Economic
North Star?" Featuring Gene Sperling

11:30 a.m. Lunch provided at multiple buffets across the Aspen Institute campus

12:00 p.m. – 12:50 pm Senator Sasse interviewed by Jeffrey Goldberg in one-on-one session on
"Conservatism in America: Meet Ben Sasse- Self Described Independent
Conservative

1:30-3:00pm The Aspen Institute Ideas Festival Closing Session

After the conclusion of the Festival at 3pm, the Senator continues travel in Aspen Colorado at personal expense.



1) "Aspen in Action: Rural Mythicism: Fake News about Rural America": Featuring Jennie Stephens and Janet Topolsky

Description of the Panel: Rural America has come to the nation's attention. But much discussion in the media and coffee shops, at conferences and dinner tables, relies on incorrect or no data, largely idyllic or dystopic tropes and images, and opinion uninformed by rural experience. The full picture of rural America is quite different. It has gained population in the last two years. Agriculture employs less than 4 percent of the rural workforce. Rural leaders are generating productive economic and social innovations just as in urban America. Immigrants are helping revive rural economies and culture. Placemaking is rampant. Impact investing is on the rise. The voting map is red and blue and purple. Start the day with a frank and revealing exchange with rural doers, knowers, and advocates. Bring all those questions about rural America you have always wanted to ask. Help foster a truer narrative about America's rural people, places, culture, and economy.

2) "The Genesis of "Isms"": Featuring John McWorter

Description: A person espousing the ideas of liberal thinkers, in the vein of philosopher John Locke, can often be dismissed today as an unfeeling supporter of the status quo. "Neoliberal" began as a proud watchcry of progressives and is now a slur levelled by progressives at others. What, exactly, is a "progressive"? How has the label "Republican" been applicable to Abraham Lincoln, Ronald Reagan, and Donald Trump? Linguist John McWhorter explains how ordinary principles about how words' meanings change has intersected with the current social climate to make our political terms some of the most dynamic — and confusing — ones in the modern American language.

3) "Defining Economic Progress: Should Dignity be Our Ultimate Economic North Star?" Featuring Gene Sperling

Description: There is an overwhelming tendency to see economic goals in terms of metrics like GDP, unemployment, or in terms of very specific policies or policy strategies — like populism versus centrism. Yet, this can reflect a confusion of means and metrics with ultimate end goals in terms of what matters most for raising human well-being. If increased job polarization, potential job loss from robots and AI, and accelerating inequality are leading to calls for bold steps forward, isn't it critical to first make sure we are clear on our ultimate economic destination in terms of human fulfillment? Should economic dignity be that ultimate North Star?

4) "Conservatism in America: Meet Ben Sasse- Self Described Independent Conservative

Description: Senator Ben Sasse, Republican from Nebraska, has been a vocal supporter of overhauling the Affordable Care Act and a variety of environmental regulations. He has made news for backing Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to the Supreme Court, border emergency declarations, and the administration's hard-line positions against China, which he views as undermining US national security. He parts with many of his Senate colleagues, however, worrying that stalemates and divisive partisanship are harming the country's future. At odds on occasion with the president and the chaos in Washington, the senator admits to wondering if he



ASPEN IDEAS FESTIVAL

should switch parties and become an Independent. What's on this senator's mind the most? Where will America be in ten years around such critical issues as cybersecurity and the future of work? "Right now," he says, "a lot of our kids wonder if there is anything you can trust in the future."

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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

June 26, 2019

The Honorable Ben Sasse
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sasse:

This responds to your recent correspondence concerning an invitation you received to travel to the *2019 Aspen Ideas Festival*, in Aspen, Colorado, on June 28-29, 2019, sponsored by the Aspen Institute (Aspen).¹ Aspen certified to the Select Committee on Ethics (the Committee) that it will pay the *necessary expenses*² related to the travel and that it is neither a lobbyist, nor lobbying firm, nor an agent of a foreign principal, and it is not otherwise acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government. Aspen has also certified that it does not retain or employ a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal and that no registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal will accompany you at *any point throughout your trip*.³

Based on information and materials available to the Committee, and consistent with the guidance contained in this letter regarding extending your trip for a personal purpose, and assuming the **actual** travel and travel-related expenses conform to the information and materials you provided, it appears that the proposed payment or reimbursement of necessary expenses for this trip **may be accepted** under relevant Senate Rules and the Committee's *Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel*, so long as at the time of the payment or reimbursement, Aspen is neither a registered lobbyist nor lobbying firm under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, nor an agent of a foreign principal under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (and is not otherwise acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government), and provided the travel and all required documents are disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate in accordance with the provisions of Senate Rules 34 and 35.

Under Senate Rule 35, a Senator or officer who receives payment or reimbursement for necessary expenses related to fact-finding travel must disclose those expenses to the Secretary of

¹ Based on the information you submitted, the Committee understands that, for a personal purpose, you intend to extend your trip in Aspen for more than four days after the conclusion of the privately-sponsored travel. You are responsible for any additional expenses incurred by you as a result of extending this trip. The Committee also understands that your spouse and children will join you in Aspen during the trip and your extension, but that neither your spouse nor your children will participate in the privately-sponsored travel or accept any expenses from Aspen. Because this letter approves only your acceptance of necessary expenses from Aspen, you must pay for any additional expenses incurred by your spouse, and your children.

² The term “necessary expenses” has a specific definition. See *Select Committee on Ethics’ Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel – Glossary of Terms* at 8.

³ The term “any point throughout your trip” has a specific definition. See *id.* at 2.

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